

~~SECRET~~
INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A2g

CD NO.

COUNTRY Egypt/Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 5 Jan 1949

SUBJECT Arrest of Czech Citizens in Cairo

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE 25X1A6a

ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. November - December 1948

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X6

25X1X6

1. Early in November the following prominent members of the Czech community in Cairo were arrested and imprisoned by the Egyptian Police:

- a. Jaro Hilbert, former president of the Lidice Club, Czech community organization, who resigned that position in October 1948. Hilbert is well off financially. He is an artist, whose paintings sell for £ 300. According to source, Hilbert was the only one who came to the aid of former Minister Krucky at the time of his resignation from the Czech Legation.
- b. Zygmunt Neumann, a representative of the Tunska Porcelain Company and the Bata Rubber Company. Neumann is Jewish.
- c. Rudolph Mann, representative of the Kotva Export-Import Company.
- d. Rudolph Czakrt, an arms dealer representing the Zbrojka firm.

25X1X6

CIA LIBRARY

2. On 1 December the property of the arrestees was placed under sequestration by the Egyptian Ministry of Finance. After being held incommunicado at the Foreigners Prison, Cairo, the four prisoners were transferred early in December to Camp Huckstep.
3. In late November, Dr. Vladimir Helmuth, Commercial Attache and interim senior officer at the Czech Legation called at the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to protest the arrest of Czech citizens on mere suspicion. Helmuth declared that it was a violation of international law to make such arrests when Egypt was not at war with Czechoslovakia.
4. The Egyptian Under Secretary of State informed Helmuth that Hilbert's wife, Sarah, an Egyptian-born Jewess, had been engaged in suspicious correspondence with the Czech Government. (Comment. Sarah Hilbert has written articles for the Egyptian magazine, Nouvelle Egypte and, according to the Under Secretary of State, had applied for designation as Oriental Correspondent for a Czech news agency. Egyptian Government officials have long regarded Hilbert as a communist organizer and propagandist.)

25X1X6

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NSRB															
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR		FBI															

Document No. 004

NO CHANGE in Class. ☐☐ DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S

DDA Memo. 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 177/1783

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A2g
[REDACTED]

-2-

- 25X1X6
5. The Under Secretary said that Neumann had been placing orders for delivery to Israel of Czech-manufactured weapons and munitions under the guise of porcelain orders. Mann was accused of purchasing Egyptian cotton for Israel and covering the transaction by transshipping it from an intermediate country.
 6. Czakrt's case was not mentioned by Helmut because he feared that the Egyptian Government had substantial evidence linking him with arms traffic to Israel. [REDACTED] Comment. The ex-Czech Minister, Krucky, has also indicated that Czakrt may have been involved in this traffic.)
 7. There is no indication that either the arrestees or their sequestered property will be released in the near future.

SECRET

SECRET